

**COMMITTEE MINUTES for
AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Date: April 11, 2001

Place: Room 118

Convened: 9:47 AM **Recessed:** **Reconvened:** **Adjourned:** 11:35 AM

Present: Senators Gaskill-CH, Sexton-VC, Black-RM, Fink, Greiner
Representatives Drake-CH, Kettering-VC, Mertz-RM, Baudler, Eddie, Hahn,
May, Quirk, Schrader

Absent:

Co-Chairman Thurman Gaskill called the meeting to order in Room 118, April 11, 2001, at 9:47 a.m.

The roll was called with all members present. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as printed.

The purpose of today's meeting was to discuss cuts and priorities for the Agriculture FY 2001 budget. Senator Gaskill introduced Secretary of Agriculture, Patty Judge, who reviewed the needs of her department for the coming year. One of the Secretary's greatest concerns was the lack of preparedness for a potential outbreak of Hoof and Mouth Disease in Iowa. She feels that her Department needs a minimum of \$200,000 to prepare the State for an emergency outbreak. At this time, there are no available funds. She expressed concerns about Iowa not taking charge of their own agricultural problems. Secretary Judge distributed handouts outlining suggested budget cuts options and priorities. Questions and discussion followed her presentation.

Senator Gaskill recognized, Jeffrey Vonk, Director Nominee for the Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Vonk made comments regarding the Natural Resources proposed budget cuts. Senator Gaskill outlined the committee plans to work on the Department of Agriculture budget today, and invited Mr. Vonk to return at a later time to discuss budget cuts for the Department of Natural Resources.

Senator Gaskill gave concluding remarks, and asked the committee members evaluate the budget situation and return to tomorrow's scheduled meeting with suggestions for solution.

Senator Eddie moved to arise at 11:35 a.m.

Gerry Gaskill, Committee Secretary